

Dear Ron and Joan,

Mosaic-Newcomer Family Resource Network is honoured to endorse the *Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth*.

Mosaic – Newcomer Family Resource Network is a registered Canadian charity committed to helping families settle successfully in Manitoba. Part of that success is ensuring that families have access to information that will help them understand the parenting norms in Canada, and also give them an opportunity to share their parenting skills with one another.

Mosaic provides immigrant parents and primary care givers with opportunities to develop additional language skills and build the confidence and independence needed to participate actively in community life. All Mosaic programs provide quality childcare for preschool-aged children. Our programs are offered in several Winnipeg communities where we establish strong community connections and have existing partnerships. When we began six years ago we were a small umbrella organization for five community based ESL classes with onsite childcare. Almost all of our participants are parents and we quickly realized that we needed to find a way to provide support to them in their role as parents. Most of the parents were coming from countries where physical punishment is the norm. All of the parents love and want the best for their children and their understanding of how to do this was with physical and emotional punishments. They had little or no information on the impact of physical punishment and emotional punishment on their children, as this was also the way they had been raised and usually the only technique they knew.

We wanted to find a way to support these parents in shifting their thinking from physical punishment to positive discipline. After some research we were able to connect with Joan Durrant and receive training in Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting (PDEP) The information we received from this program which includes the information on the *Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth* helped and continues to help us support parents in understanding the negative impacts of physical punishment and also helps the parents shift their thinking to positive discipline.

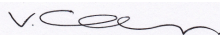
Mosaic has adopted Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting/Teaching as the underlying philosophy for our organization. All staff have had an overview of the program and many have taken the program. We have now developed an extensive Family Program department in our organization where we train newcomer participants in our parenting programs as PDEP facilitators. We were able to offer over fifty family programs in fiscal 2014-15; thirty of these were PDEP and several done in first language. We have trained 40 newcomer facilitators all who are now knowledgeable in the Joint Statement and are very grateful to now understand the impact of physical punishment on their children and youth and to be able to share it within their programs and within their communities. The *Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth* has given us the evidence needed to support parents in understanding the huge negative impact of physical punishment. Through this knowledge Mosaic has been able to support a growing network of newcomer parents in shifting their parenting from physical punishment to positive discipline.

We have the Joint Statement and the PDEP program to thank for the move towards healthier, happier children and families in Winnipeg and we are committed to continuing to support parents and children by sharing this knowledge. Please add our name to the list of organization and individuals who have endorsed the *Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth*.

Sincerely,



Jean Tinling
Director of Family Programs
Mosaic-Newcomer Family Resource Network



Val Cavers
Executive Director
Mosaic-Newcomer Family Resource Network